

# *Proclamation*

## *Presented*

### **In Recognition of Lupus Awareness Month**

**WHEREAS**, Lupus Awareness Month encourages individuals living in Hawai'i to become educated about this disease and ensure the proper steps are taken to decrease the chances of contracting this disease; and

**WHEREAS**, Lupus Awareness Month provides awareness for this disease, which affects over 10,000 individuals in Hawai'i. Lupus causes the immune system to attack the body's own tissue and organs, including the heart, brain, lungs, blood, skin, joints and kidneys; and

**WHEREAS**, Lupus Awareness Month highlights the aspect that particular ethnic groups including Native Hawaiians, Pacific Islanders, Asians, African Americans, Hispanics, Latinos and Native Americans have a greater risk of developing lupus, which may be related to common genes between their racial groups; and

**WHEREAS**, Lupus Awareness Month affords individuals with helpful information concerning this disease; around 90% of lupus patients are women; and lupus patients are usually in their childbearing years- 14 to 45 years old; and

**WHEREAS**, Lupus Awareness Month educates individuals about the common symptoms of lupus, including extreme fatigue, headaches, painful or swollen joints, fever, anemia, chest pains, abnormal blood clotting or photosensitivity; and

**WHEREAS**, Lupus Awareness Month calls attention to the importance of 2011 being recognized as a significant year for lupus patients with the release of a new approved drug by the United States Food and Drug Administration; and


**WHEREAS**, Lupus Awareness Month is recognized by Lupus Hawai'i, whose mission is to offer assistance to those affected by this disease through support system groups;

**THEREFORE I, NEIL ABERCROMBIE, Governor, and I, BRIAN SCHATZ, Lieutenant Governor of the State of Hawai'i, do hereby proclaim the month of May, 2011 as**

### **"LUPUS AWARENESS MONTH"**

in Hawai'i and urge the people of the Aloha State to support Lupus Hawai'i efforts to educate the public and raise awareness about Lupus.

**DONE** at the State Capitol, in the Executive Chambers, Honolulu, State of Hawai'i, this twenty-seventh day of April, 2011.

  
NEIL ABERCROMBIE  
Governor, State of Hawai'i

  
BRIAN SCHATZ  
Lt. Governor, State of Hawai'i